



HB 6856 - AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee,

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association steadfastly supports the intent of the prescription drug monitoring system and is actively assisting members in complying with the legislation that outlined the program. While supporting the intent and spirit of the PDM system and HB 6856, the CVMA respectfully asserts that the existing requirements are very difficult to comply with on a weekly basis. HB 6856 will heighten this requirement to “real time” reporting, which will be onerous and extremely challenging to comply with.

Since the advent of the PDM, the CVMA has distributed information, encouraged member participation and provided technical assistance in compliance. The organization has also solicited member feedback on issues they have encountered in complying with the system. Member hospitals utilize standardized client databases, a significant percentage of which are unable to produce the proper reports or do so in a compatible format with the PDM. Hospitals that have provided “hard copy” reporting in order to remain compliant have had their reports returned to them as unsatisfactory. Further, while the CVMA appreciates that this new system is a tremendous effort for the Department of Consumer Protection to launch, there has not been sufficient phone or email support to aid members in getting themselves established as users or to troubleshoot reporting problems. Members are experiencing a high level of frustration in becoming facile users of the PDM and finding that they are not well-supported at present, therefore very anxious about an even more frequent reporting requirement.

Beyond issues of compliance, the CVMA is concerned about issues of accuracy. The reporting is presently configured so that veterinarians are reporting by animal, which leaves room for error in ensuring that the correct record is being viewed and/or reported upon. The CVMA wholeheartedly supports the State’s desire to reduce substance abuse and deaths resulting from substance abuse and recognizes the veterinarian’s role in ensuring that pet prescriptions are not misused. The CVMA respectfully submits that the system, as presently configured, is not as efficient as it might be with some modifications and additional support. Therefore, further regulation in this regard is not supported.

Respectfully,

Eva Ceranowicz DVM
Chair, Government Relations Committee
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